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England Seizes German Ships, Reserves And Supplies In Harbor

LAKE SAYS SUBMARINES WILL PLAY IMPORTANT PART IN EUROPE'S WAR

Only Inferior Speed Of Underwater Ships Prevent Them, He Says, From Rendering Battleships Absolutely Useless

Simon Lake, inventor of the submarine, and whose advice, patents and boats have been accepted by every modern nation, today stated, to a representative of The Farmer, in his opinion that a general European war cannot be averted.

"They have been preparing for it for some years," said Mr. Lake. "Commercial and political reasons conspire to have it carried out. I am of the opinion that President Wilson's offer of mediation cannot be accepted by the continental nations involved."

"The submarine is destined to be one of the largest factors in the naval engagements and the eyes of the whole naval world will be focused directly upon the results of submarine operation. Upon the result of this war will largely rest the decision whether another battleship will be laid down. With the modern type of submarine, using the hydroplane (not to be confused with the flying ship) and even keel construction, and with the latest model torpedoes, no fleet can withstand the attack of the under water enemy and one little vessel could destroy or route an entire squadron.

"The only handicap against which the modern submarine has to contend today is the matter of speed. While a battleship may steam at a rate of 22 knots an hour, the present type of engine on the submarine only permits of a maximum of 12 knots on the surface and about 10 knots under water. In this respect, the submarine is far behind the battleships. They may be towed by the squadron but in this event one or more of the fighting ships is held behind. When an engine is devised which will speed the submarine up to that of surface craft the surface fighter must disappear, for they have no protection from the submarine attack.

"As an instance of what may be done by the modern underwater ship, it must first be realized that the smaller submarines of the older type carry from 2 to 4 torpedoes containing about 150 pounds each of gun-cotton, sufficient to raise the largest fighting craft high out of the water, as the explosive force under water is always upwards. The more modern submarine carries between 4 and 8 of these larger torpedoes, which can be accurately discharged at a distance of between one and two miles from the object to be destroyed.

"Though the modern fighting craft, suspecting torpedoes, use what is known as a torpedo-net made of steel links, when in use, the speed of the vessel is greatly diminished and they are not used except as a precautionary measure.

"On the other hand, the latest torpedoes carry on the 'nose' what is known as a torpedo net cutter, which is in the form of a spear shaped knife that, driven into the net with great force, cuts its strands. A second torpedo can be sent with such accuracy as to penetrate the hole made by the first in the event that an explosion of the first torpedo does not wreck the vessel.

"According to the famous submarine expert today, no vessel is immune to the submarine attack, for even the fast torpedo boat destroyer cannot maneuver with sufficient speed to escape the terrible torpedo attack from the underwater craft, nor can the location of the submarine be discovered by any known instrument or means at the command of the battleships. A submarine may creep within 100 feet of the keel of the vessel she expects to destroy and escape the force of explosion.

"The submarine, proceeding at a rate of 10 miles per hour, may not come up to the surface to even secure her bearings by the small periscope for a period of 36 hours, and consequently, should a battle result in the North Sea, the nation which first put her submarines into action would be the undisputed victor."

In speaking of the types and number of submarines known to be owned by the various governments, Mr. Lake today said that while Germany has kept her program and number of submarines a secret, she has built many. When she decided to discard the original type and build her own, experts from the Lake Company here were called into consultation and gave much advice to the German inventors and constructors and it is the prevailing impression that, while France is credited with having the largest number, Germany is at least a close second. England also has a large number and there are altogether assembled about the North Sea about 75 belonging to the various nations.

The Lake Company has furnished Russia and Austria with submarines and has also acted in an advisory capacity to the German constructors. England, though originally buying eight of the older type, from the United States, has lost six of them and

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MRS. WILSON GRAVELY ILL AT CAPITAL

Washington, D. C., Aug. 5—The condition of Mrs. Wilson, wife of the President of the United States, was said today to be extremely grave. Mrs. Francis Bowes Sayre and Miss Margaret Wilson, two daughters who have been away from Washington have been called to her bedside. Mrs. Wilson was injured by a fall in the White House last winter.

FOREIGN SHIPS IN BATTLE OFF MAINE COAST?

Firing of Heavy Guns At Sea Is Heard From Portland Harbor.

NAVY OFFICERS DOUBT EVIDENCE OF EARS

Eight Foreign Cruisers Are Holding Off Shore Somewhere On Coast.

Portland, Me., Aug. 5—The firing of heavy guns off the Maine coast was heard early today. Eight or ten shots within two minutes were heard shortly before 8 o'clock. The sound seemed to come from a point 25 or 30 miles south southeast of Portland and probably in the vicinity of Seguin Island. The shots also were heard at the harbor fort and at points between here and Bath. They were quite distinct at Bath.

Seguin is a small island off the mouth of the Kennebec river, a few miles below Bath. The reported firing was not heard by the lifesavers at either Cape Elizabeth or Popham Beach Station. At Popham Beach, which is near Seguin Island, the lifesavers were certain they would have heard the guns if there had been a naval engagement off Seguin.

No information was available at Bath or Boothbay Harbor but, in this city, the reports continued to come in from all sources that there had been heavy firing. One of the newspaper offices received at least 200 inquiries about it during the early forenoon. Blasting for a state highway at Falmouth Forebide, three miles to the eastward was suggested as an explanation but it was not generally accepted, owing to the volume of the sound.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 5—The heavy firing off the Maine coast reported from Portland today could not have been caused by a sea fight between foreign warships, it was stated by officers at the navy yards here. The officers said they were absolutely certain that no foreign naval vessels were in the vicinity.

New York, Aug. 5—Eight cruisers—three German, three British and two French—are hovering somewhere off this coast. For days incoming steamships have reported news of fragmentary wireless indicating that these vessels were in American waters but no shipper was able to fix their position.

The firing heard of the coast of Maine today may have marked the first engagement between either the German and English or the German and French ships. The British cruisers known to be in American waters are the Berwick, Essex and Lancaster. The German cruisers are the Dresden, Strassburg and Karlsruhe. The French cruisers are the Conde and Descartes.

These vessels have been primarily concerned of late in attempts to intercept merchant vessels of the enemy and several big liners, notably the Kronprinzessin Cecilie, which put into Bar Harbor, Me.

Nathan Carey, 18 years old, was run down and killed by an automobile truck while playing in front of his home in New York.

Apprentices on the training ship Aurore were feted by the populace at Marseilles, France.

RULERS OF HOLLAND AND BELGIUM GAIN ENGLAND'S HELP



QUEEN WILHELMINA AND CHILD OF KING ALBERT

Queen Wilhelmina of Holland and King Albert of Belgium have been drawn into the war. When Germany invaded Belgium the king sent an urgent appeal to Great Britain for support, and Holland prepared to take the drastic step of flooding the country by opening the dykes. England refused to see the neutrality of these little buffer nations violated.

HENKELS IS HOME

East End Manufacturer Tells of Return of Cecilie

RUSH THROUGH SEA IN TOTAL DARKNESS

Passengers Praise the Captain and Express Thanks at Outcome

Max Henkels, a member of the Albert & E. Henkels Lumber Company, with an American branch factory located in Connecticut avenue, a passenger on the Kronprinzessin Cecilie which was turned back by danger of imminent capture by British or French warships when four days off the port of New York, reaching Bar Harbor yesterday, arrived in this city at noon today.

Mr. Henkels, though slightly inconvenienced by the abrupt termination of the voyage and a landing at Bar Harbor, Me., was elated at the judgment of the officers and the return trip, expressing himself as pleased both as to the course of events and his being back in Bridgeport.

"I much prefer the action taken by Capt. Charles Polack than being captured by a British or French vessel and taken a possible prisoner of war to a foreign country and being submitted to inconvenience and possible indignity," said Mr. Henkels today as he lunched in the dining hall of the Stratfield.

Though Mr. Henkels was asleep at the time the Cecilie changed her course, and did not learn of the ship's new course until he went on the deck to find the sun upon the opposite side from that it had been for two or three days, he heard much of the discussion carried on by the 325 first cabin passengers.

It was reported that about one-third of the first cabin was composed of German or German-American citizens. These, upon first learning of the war, showed their loyalty by toasting the

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GERMANY CUT OFF FROM U. S. BY CUTTING OF CABLE, AS ITS NAVY SUFFERS MINOR DEFEAT

Kaiser's Army's Are Steadily Moving East and West—Troops Already In Contact With Opposing Forces of France and Russia—Strict Censorship Maintained On News From Foreign Countries

Outside of the seizure of German steamships, loaded with reservists and supplies for Germany, in British harbors, and the seemingly authentic report of the sinking of one German gunboat and the capture of two others by a combined fleet of French and English cruisers in the Mediterranean, there is little news leaking by the strict censorship of the war powers of Europe today.

Reports of a naval battle between ships of opposing powers off the coast of Maine are considered doubtful.

The United States, through President Wilson, has offered to mediate the dissensions of foreign countries in the present crisis abroad.

London, Aug. 5—Although five of the great European powers—Austria, England, France, Germany and Russia—are at war and millions of men on land and sea are under arms and ready to strike, developments of prime importance were few today.

The cutting of the German telegraph and telephone connections and the severance of the German trans-Atlantic cable virtually cut Germany off from communication with other countries. Reports from France, Belgium, Holland and Russia, however, showed that Germany's armies were steadily moving forward east and west and that her advanced posts were in contact with the opposing Russian and French armies.

In England, preparations were rapidly completed for naval activities after the declaration of war last night but the authorities would not permit leakage of news as to military or naval movements.

Several German steamships in British waters, including the Belgia, with 73 German reservists and a quantity of food-stuffs, were declared prizes of war. The Maria Leonhardt, in the Thames, suffered a similar fate.

The British government today commandeered the horses belonging to express companies and big department stores, thus causing an appreciable suspension of business.

On the coast of the North Sea where it had been erroneously reported that a naval battle was in progress last night, the British government has taken over all schools and

MEDIATION NOW OFFERED EUROPE BY PRES. WILSON

Washington, Aug. 5—President Wilson has offered his good offices to all the European powers involved in the war.

In a message sent to Emperor William, Emperor Nicholas, Emperor Francis Joseph, President Poincare and King George, the President says:—

"As official head of one of the powers signatory to The Hague convention I feel it to be my privilege and my duty under article 3 of that convention to say to you, in a spirit of most earnest friendship, that I should welcome an opportunity to act in the interest of European peace, either now or any other time that might be more suitable as an occasion to serve you and all concerned in a way that would afford me lasting cause for gratitude and happiness."

"Woodrow Wilson."

Tokio, Aug. 5—The Japanese premier, Count Okuma in an interview today, expressed his regret that the United States had not been able to mediate in the European conflict which, he said, if it continues means the destruction of western civilization.

Japan, he continued, would be happy to join the United States in attempting mediation but that her possible participation in the war as an ally of Great Britain makes her an interested party.

The premier said that Japan, if she were reluctantly compelled to intervene, would protect the British colonies but under no circumstances would she send a fleet or an army to Europe.

other public buildings for conversion into hospitals in readiness to receive the wounded men after the expected naval encounter between the German and British fleets.

Volunteers were recruited for the British army and this was taken as an indication that the expeditionary force was to be sent out; but no authentic information on this point was obtainable. In France the minister of war declared the mobilization to have proceeded satisfactorily and everything to be in readiness with General Joffre, commander-in-chief, at the frontier.

As the Black Sea has been tightly closed by Turkey's shutting the Dardanelles and Bosphorus in order to maintain her neutrality, the Russian fleet there has had no difficulty in making captive many German and Austrian vessels.

Austria and Serbia appear to have stopped their activities or at least to have put a strict censorship on the news of any important events, as no despatches of importance reached the British capital from those two countries.

The French fleet in the Mediterranean has received orders to capture or destroy three German cruisers but the despatches are conflicting.

Washington, Aug. 5—The President's offer of good offices in the way of mediation between the warring European powers was forwarded by Secretary Bryan to the American embassies in the nations involved and through them transmitted to the governments.

It was said at the White House that no intimations had been received that such an offer would be favorably received. President Wilson took the position that the European war was so stupendous and its effect on the entire world was liable to be so lasting that the United States, as one of the few large neutral powers, could not do otherwise than at least offer to be the means for bringing about peace.

The proffer of good offices was not sent to the governments of Serbia and Montenegro, because those countries are not parties to The Hague convention.

A hope that the President's offer might be accepted was prevalent in official circles because it is not necessary for any of the warring powers to change the present military status if they accept it.

Washington, Aug. 5—An

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